

the Helena National Forest that connect our streets in the capital city of Helena. One day my granddaughter Kennedy will fish and bike these same lands and waters. These places all have one thing in common beyond being gorgeous and being in Montana; they belong to you and me. We all own them. They are part of what makes living in Montana and in America so special. Other countries and other States have lost this heritage but not in Montana.

Maintaining and improving access to these lands is one of the most important things we can do. That is why today I submitted legislation to make it harder to sell off this land. My bill will create a budget point of order in the Senate to block attempts to sell off public land to pay for Congress's bills.

There is no question that Washington has a spending problem. Since arriving in the Senate, I have proposed several ways to rein in out-of-control spending. But selling off our kids' and grandkids' heritage is a terrible idea. Jeopardizing the countless jobs that rely on our outdoors is also a terrible idea.

There is a theory circulating in some parts of the West that the Federal Government has a continuing duty to dispose of its lands in Western States. What this really means is handing over our most popular recreation areas to the highest out-of-State bidder. That is good for copper barons and trophy-home developers, but it is bad for us.

This theory is as radical as it is wrong, as court rulings have repeatedly found, but it is getting real traction.

Our colleagues in the House of Representatives have passed a budget that could sell off millions of acres of public land—our land—in Montana.

I want you to know that I will fight any similar attempts in this Chamber. I want my granddaughter Kennedy to grow up in Montana with the same easy access to streams and forests I enjoyed, whether she wants to hunt, hike, fish or bike.

We also need to get our forests healthy and working again, creating good jobs and making our forests more resilient to wildfires.

Like many Montanans, I am frustrated with how long it takes to conduct a timber sale or complete an environmental analysis of potential projects. Even simple projects get tied up in court, and our rural communities and the land itself suffer for it.

But the solution isn't to hand the keys over to special interests and walk away. The solution is to manage the land—from the ground up.

In Montana, tourism is critical to our economy. Outdoor recreation supports 64,000 jobs and generates over \$5.8 billion in revenue annually. Cutting off access or selling the land to out-of-State development is a direct threat to jobs in Montana.

Turning over land in the State is just one step away from privatizing. There is no question that private land is the misguided ultimate goal of many who don't understand our outdoor heritage in the West.

In the year 2000 I led the response of the Montana National Guard to the wildfires that consumed over 1 million acres of Montana land. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior have spent about \$1.8 billion annually to fight wildfires in the past 5 years. States simply cannot afford that pricetag. One bad wildfire season could bankrupt a State.

I want to share a little more about what is at stake.

Under the Ryan budget in the House of Representatives, with an auction of our public lands, Montana hunters could lose access to elk wallows of the Pioneer Mountains. You might hear elk bugling on Tenderfoot Creek in the Little Belt Mountains, but it could be on private land instead of land protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Montanans could be shut out of the Missouri River Breaks, locked out of putting a canoe in or hunting a mule deer or sheep.

We could lose the Rocky Mountain Front, facing padlocks and orange signs instead of open space and the chance for a bighorn sheep tag.

Under the House plan, anglers in Montana could lose the headwaters of Rock Creek or the Smith River and the chance to sink a perfect fly from a streamside the public owns.

Despite years of effort to secure access, we could be shut out of land around the Three Dollar Bridge south of Bozeman that helped kids like me—growing up, fishing in our own blue-ribbon streams. The same thing could happen to the centennials and swan.

We could lose the best eastern Montana has to offer, from the monster bucks and turkeys in the Custer National Forest to the duck factory of the BLM's prairie potholes.

Under the House plan, we could be facing closed roads, closed trails, and closed land in the Gallatin National Forest that thousands of Montanans worked together 20 years ago to keep open and keep public forever.

Montana is the last best place because we can hunt, fish, hike, and play on the land that we all own. I will fight to keep it that way.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3375. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3376. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3377. Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2410, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such

fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3375. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE III—GULF OF MEXICO RED SNAPPER FISHERY

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) GULF STATES.—The term “Gulf States” means the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 302. FISHERY MANAGEMENT RIGHTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall grant to the Gulf States exclusive fishery management authority over the red snapper fish (*lutjanus campechanus*) in the Gulf of Mexico in the area located between the coast line of each Gulf State and the point that is 200 miles seaward of the coast line of each Gulf State, consistent with the jurisdictional limit of the exclusive economic zone.

(b) AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOVERNORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The grant of authority under subsection (a) is contingent on the condition that not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary grants the authority, the Governors of each of the Gulf States—

(A) agree on a fishery management plan governing management of the red snapper fish (*lutjanus campechanus*); and

(B) certify in writing to the Secretary that the Governors have entered into that agreement.

(2) REVERSION.—If the Governors fail to enter into an agreement under paragraph (1), the authority granted to the Governors under subsection (a) shall revert to the Secretary.

SA 3376. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2363, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRANSPARENCY OF REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL MEETINGS.

(a) OPEN MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(i)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “session,” and inserting “session that is not subject to paragraph (3)(C).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) Any member of a Council, committee, or panel who intends to use a document, exhibit, fact, or statistic at an open or closed meeting of the Council, committee, or panel shall provide to all other members of the Council, committee, or panel the source of the document, exhibit, fact, or statistic not less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.”.

(b) CLOSED MEETINGS.—Section 302(i)(3) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation